



Reception Home Learning

Week 8 Maths Activities

This week we are asking your child to explore and develop their understanding of **capacity** through some practical activities. The concept of capacity can be tricky for children, so it may be helpful to reinforce that when we think about capacity we are trying to find out **how much a container can hold**.

Activity 1

Set out a range of containers in different shapes and sizes, for instance, saucepans, bowls, egg cups or beakers, encourage your child to engage in some imaginative play, perhaps making soup or a magic potion. Can your child fill a container right to the top? Can he or she describe how much liquid is in their container using the words, **empty**, **full**, and **half full**? You could add lots of bubbles, food colouring or petals to the water to make it more interesting.

Activity 2

To provide some variation you could choose to use rice, lentils or sand for this activity instead of water.

Read the story of The Three Bears with your child (if you don't have the story there is a link below) Ask your child to work with the same containers, but this time think about which container could be used for each bear's porridge. Reinforce the concept of capacity by saying that Daddy Bear's bowl must **hold the most** porridge and Baby Bear's bowl must **hold the least**.

Tell your child that they are going to measure exactly how much each container holds and help your child to do this using a smaller container, e.g. a cup. Talk to your child about how they will need to fill the cup right to the top so they use same amount of water each time.

Can your child order the 3 containers according to their capacity?

Can your child label the containers with the number of cups they hold?



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOJ_A5tgBKM.

Activity 3 Investigation

Can your child investigate the different shapes of containers and start to link this with their ideas about capacity. For this investigation you will need a tall, thin container and a wide, shallow container ask your child to predict which container will hold more water. Your child can measure which container has the largest capacity using the plastic cup from Activity 2.

Was the result a surprise?

Can your child explain what they found?

